



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ March 3, 2021

St. Paul's At Home Worship for Sunday, March 7th

Join us at **8:30 am** for Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts. Even if you don't have a computer, you can join by phone!

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/95751784278>

To participate by phone, dial **312-626-6799** and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is **957 5178 4278**

All participants will be muted upon entry to the service. You do not necessarily have to have the video enabled if you do not wish to be seen.



Palm Sunday

March 28, 8:30 am
In-Person Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 1
St. Paul's In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Good Friday - Noon

April 2
Stations of the Cross via Zoom

Good Friday - Evening
First United Methodist In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Easter
In-Person Worship
8:30 am

As part of our shared ministry here at First United Methodist, St. Paul's will be conducting the Maundy Thursday service and have Stations of the Cross. by Zoom on Friday. FUMC will be conducting the Good Friday evening service. All are welcome to every service!

From Deacon Deb

On Sunday we will hear John's version of the cleansing of the temple (John 2:13-22). In this telling, Jesus overturns the money changers' tables and drives out the livestock. He admonishes everyone by saying "...stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

Biblical scholars assert the presence of money changers and livestock were necessary things. Local and foreign currency had to be exchanged for the currency used to pay the temple tax. Livestock was necessary to make the prescribed offerings. So if money changers and livestock were needed, what was it that had Jesus so unsettled?

I'm wondering if it had something to do with a shift in priority. I'm wondering if, in the midst of all that necessary commerce, the point was being missed. Perhaps people were forgetting why they were there in the first place – the worship of God.

In our present day the church finds itself in a most singular position. The restrictions of the past year have jettisoned us into an era of at-home worship. Without exception, the church has come to the understanding that at-home worship is a necessary thing. Even when we are fully restored to in-person worship, we will forevermore maintain the option of at-home worship. This fact demands the necessity of an expertise in technology we never expected. As such, our energies are focused on learning and doing all that is needed.

John's gospel is a welcome reminder of where our priority lies. In the midst of all the needful things that preoccupy us, the one essential thing, the only thing that matters is our worship of God. It is our piety, not our performance, which pleases God.

"The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such at these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Vestry Meetings and Minutes

The St. Paul's Vestry currently meets the third Sunday of each month following worship. Parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings. The minutes from past meetings are available as well. Please let Lisa know if you'd like to be sent the Zoom link to the next meeting, or if you'd like the minutes sent to you.



Living Well Through Lent 2021
A Personal Devotional and Lenten Program
Listening With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

I Will, With God's Help

by Malcolm McLaurin

Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong.

The key is to never stop doing right.

—Lisa Carter, Starr's mom, *The Hate U Give*

Peter, Peter, Peter ...

Let me be honest here. In some ways ... in MANY ways, I find myself in the same boat as Peter. Wanting to deny the difficult, the scary aspects of discipleship. Peter was just being honest. He didn't fully connect the dots. Yes, he truly and deeply believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but his definition was pulled from human sources. His definition was one that was fashioned by the world in which he lived, not the one that Jesus was revealing. His thinking was based on another model for Messiah-ship, not Jesus's model. A Messiah who suffers? A Messiah who is rejected? A Messiah who is killed? These were not a part of Peter's idea of the Messiah. Peter's rebuking of Jesus reflects this. Peter's rebuking reflects his shock and his fear.

Like Peter, I am often left in disbelief and denial about where Jesus is calling me to go. And while I may not rebuke Jesus (WOW! What a bold move), I do choose not to listen. Or maybe it is that I choose to listen—not to my heart and soul—but to my desire and fears. Their messages are clear. They tell me to turn my eyes away from injustice. To ignore the pain of others. To worry about me and mine. Their messages tell me that the material is the measure of worth. Their messages run counter to my baptismal promises. To seek and serve Christ in all, to love my neighbor and myself, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of everyone. The messages from my baptism are dangerous, while the former are safe and comfortable.

I am reminded of a book I read last summer, *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas. It is about a young black girl, Starr Carter, who, after witnessing a great injustice, is forced into making decisions between what is right and what is easy and comfortable. With each chapter we are witness to her struggles to make the right decision, but fear and the loss of comfort make a worthy opponent. While her decision did not ultimately shield her from danger and discomfort, it freed her to live the life she was being called into. It freed her to truly live.

Both Starr and Peter remind me that listening to and following Jesus, also known as discipleship, will often take us to places and situations that aren't comfortable. Following Jesus often involves moving against the grain of the world around us. But following Jesus—discipleship—always leads to new life.

I wonder if there are places where fear and discomfort are keeping you from responding to God's invitation to discipleship? During this season of Lent, how might you commit to a practice of deeper listening?

Malcolm McLaurin is a senior seminarian at The University of the South: School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, out of the Diocese of Olympia. Prior to seminary, he spent 20+ years as a lay minister in the Episcopal church in Arkansas, California, and Washington. His background is in children's, youth, and young adult ministry. During his time at Sewanee he has discovered a deep love of the Old Testament and the Hebrew language. Malcolm is the father of two wonderful boys, Eli (13) and Myles (9), and the husband of a patient wife, Hannah. In his free time, he can be found reading, writing poetry, or engaging in his love of photography.

For daily reflections to follow up on this article [click here](#)

Submitted by Beth Lukas, Senior Warden



Let's beautify the sanctuary for Easter!

In conjunction with First United Methodist, we will be taking donations for Easter flowers and lilies. You'll be able to take these home after Easter Sunday! Flowers may be dedicated "In honor of" or "In memory of". Options are:

Single stem lily - \$14.00
Tulip (6" pot) - \$12.50
Daffodil (7.5" pot) - 15.00

Just call or email the office with your request. Checks can be mailed to St. Paul's. The deadline for ordering is March 15.

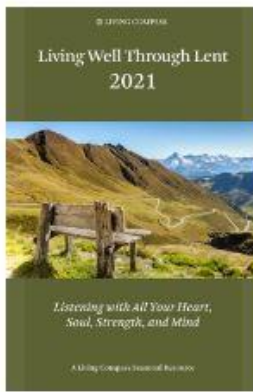
Antiracism Commission Hosts Online Book Discussion

"Waking up White"

Five-week series begins Monday, March 15

The Antiracism Commission of the Diocese of Chicago invites members of the diocese to join in a five-week facilitated discussion of [Waking up White](#), by Debby Irving, beginning Monday, March 15. The discussion will be facilitated by Constance and Dain Perry, who recently led a screening of the film, [Traces of the Trade](#), for the diocese. Active Episcopalians who live in Boston, Massachusetts, Constance and Dain have years of experience facilitating conversations on racism and racial reconciliation.

The group will meet for five consecutive Mondays from 6-8 pm Central via Zoom, beginning on March 15. There is no cost to participate, but we ask that you purchase or borrow the book in advance of the first meeting. Learn more and register by [clicking here](#).



Living Well Lenten Devotional Resources

Lent begins today, and the Living Well Through Lent 2021 resources are now available on the **Living Compass website**. There you will also find the annual Lenten Devotional, which you may download at no cost. (An e-book version is available through Amazon for 99 cents, or free if you have a Kindle Unlimited membership.) You may also sign up to receive daily readings via email, join the Facebook discussion group, and access all past daily readings.

St. Paul's has also downloaded a copy and we would be happy to **email** one to you. Just let the office know.

Servants for Sunday, March 7

Reader – Al Robel
Intercessor – Judy Robel
Cantor - Jeffrey Zabor

St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of March 7 - March 13

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Amy, Tim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Eleanor, and Erin

Current prayers: Jenn, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Colton, Shannon, Frank, June, Doris, Peter, Terry, Samantha, Debbie, and Shawn

For those celebrating birthdays: Jan Carlstedt (Mar. 9) and Heather Dodge (Mar. 10)



Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior Warden - Beth Lukas: Gramlukas2@gmail.com

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Contact us

Phone Number - 815-385-0390
Fax - 815-385-3936
St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net

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